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Letter dated 29 September 1997 from the Permanent Representative of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to draw your attention to new violations of the airspace of the Republic of Cyprus and of the flight information region of Nicosia by military aircraft of the Turkish Air Force, which took place on 10 and 12 September 1997.

On 12 September, from 0758 to 1110 hours, 15 Turkish military planes, 12 F-16 fighter jets and three C-160 planes violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, entering from the south-west and flying over Apostle Andreas Cape. From 0845 to 1134 hours the same planes once again violated the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus, this time flying from the north-west, heading towards Turkey.

On 10 September, four F-16 Turkish fighter jets and one KC-135 Turkish military plane at 1635 hours violated the Nicosia flight information region, flying over the eastern Nicosia flight information region, and exited at 1707 hours heading in a north-westerly direction.

As stated in my previous letters, such unauthorized intrusions into the Nicosia flight information region and the airspace of the Republic are in violation of international air traffic rules and seriously endanger civil aviation flights over Cyprus. At the same time, they are in contravention of the provisions of the Security Council resolutions on Cyprus which state that such overflights increase political tension on the island and undermine efforts towards achieving a final settlement.

On behalf of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus, I wish to strongly protest against the new violations of the sovereignty and territorial integrity

of the Republic of Cyprus, which are in complete disregard of international law, the Charter of the United Nations and the relevant decisions of the Organization on the question of Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Nicos AGATHOCLEOUS
Ambassador
Permanent Representative of the Republic
of Cyprus to the United Nations